

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 EB-11 ACDA-19 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5403

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CSAF (CXOXX)

AFSC (DOS)

GRIFFIS AFB (DADC/OCLS)

CONFIDENTIAL NASSAU 572

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, OGEN, OF

SUBJECT: TOP SEA PROJECT

REF: NASSAU 531; NASSAU 571

1. AS REPORTED NASSAU 571, AMBASSADORS LENGTHY DISCUSSION
WITH FONMIN ADDERLEY ON MARCH 29 INCLUDED LENGTHY
EXPLANATION BY LATTER OF REASONS FOR GCOB NON RESPONSE ON
PROJECT TOP SEA PROPOSAL.

2. ADDERLEY SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT, FROM AMBASSADOR'S
POINT OF VIEW, THERE WERE ONLY TWO ASPECTS TO TOP SEA.
FIRST, THE NECESSITY FOR IT, WITH WHICH GCOB DID NOT
DISAGREE. SECOND, ITS CONTEXT IN WHICH US THINKING
WAS THAT THERE ARE FACILITIES, THERE ARE OPERATING RIGHTS,
AND THERE ARE PROJECTS WHICH DO NOT FALL INTO EITHER
OF THESE CATEGORIES, OF WHICH TOP SEA IS ONE.

3. US HAD TO UNDERSTAND THAT GCOB SAW NOT ONLY THOSE
ASPECTS, BUT THREE OTHERS. FIRST, CUBA HAD MADE CLAIM
TO CAY SAL AREA 10-12 YEARS AGO. BRITISH HAD INFORMED
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GCOB ONLY YEAR AGO THAT CUBANS STILL HOLD TO CLAIM, AND

ONLY TWO DAYS AFTER INDEPENDENCE US VESSEL HAD PUT
ASHORE A BEACH PARTY IN THE AREA. SECOND, US-BAHAMIAN
COOPERATION IN AREA MIGHT PRECIPITATE THE KIND OF
BAHAMIAN-CUBAN ISSUE, E.G. FISHERIES, WHICH WOULD BE OF
NO GREAT CONSEQUENCE TO US, BUT COULD HAVE IMPORTANT
IMPLICATIONS FOR GCOB. THIRD, THERE ARE THOSE
OCASSIONS WHEN THE GCOB DOES NOT WANT TO SAY NO TO U.S.
BUT CANNOT SAY YES. TOP SEA WAS ONE OF THEM.

4. AMBASSADOR ASKED ADDERLEY HOW SITUATION WOULD BE
CHANGED WERE THE FACILITIES AND OPERATING RIGHTS
NEGOTIATIONS COMPLETED. IN HIS VIEW, ADDERLEY WAS
DESCRIBING GCOB CONCERNS ABOUT CUBA AND THE CAY SAL AREA
WHICH WERE OF A CONSTANT NATURE. ADDERLEY AGREED
THAT THIS POSSIBLY WAS SO, BUT THAT GCOB REPLY WAS FOR
THE PRESENT. AT THIS TIME, BOTH CUBA AND THE BAHAMAS
HAVE THEIR RELATIONS WITH EACH OTHER "ON THE BACKBURNER",
WHERE THE BAHAMAS AT LEAST, WANTS THEM TO STAY. ALSO,
THE BAHAMAS DOES NOT KNOW HOW THE CASTRO GOVERNMENT
WOULD REACT AND DOES NOT CARE TO FIND OUT BY RAISING THE
CAY SAL CLAIM PROBLEM.

5. WITH THIS RESPONSE FROM ADDERLEY, AMBASSADOR SAID
HE WOULD SUGGEST TO US GOVERNMENT THAT IF AT ALL
POSSIBLE, A NEW SITE AWAY FROM CAY SAL AREA SHOULD BE
SELECTED AND THE REQUEST RESUBMITTED. ADDERLEY REPLIED
HE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR US GOVERNMENT
TO MAKE THE KIND OF CHANGE THAT IN TURN WOULD MAKE IT
POSSIBLE FOR GCOB TO AGREE TO PROJECT.

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